150 guests attended the Australia China Futures Dialogues inaugural Leader’s Lecture presented by the Honourable Bob Hawke, AC on 1 December, 2009. Guests included the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, Mr Zheng Zhanghua, Director, Political Section, Chinese Embassy in Australia (representing Ambassador Zhang), Mr Zhouhua Cao, Consul Science and Technology, Consulate General of People’s Republic of China, Professor Zhu Xing, Assistant President Peking University and Professor Peter Andrews AO, Queensland Chief Scientist.

Mr Hawke started his address by stating “that no relationship is more important to the future of Australia than that with China”. This reality has emerged as a result of what he regards as the single most important peacetime decision taken by any political leader in the twentieth century. That is the decision in 1978 by Deng Xiaoping to move China towards a market economy and open up to the outside world. According to Mr Hawke, since this decision there have been two constants for China: unprecedented high and sustained levels of real economic growth (almost 10% per annum) and scepticism as to the sustainability of this phenomenon.

Mr Hawke examined what he sees as the implications of China’s growth for Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Firstly, the importance of China to the Australian economy has been emphasised recently. As our major trading partner, Australia’s performance in coming through the global financial crisis better than any other developed economy was a “function of good economic management and strong Chinese demand for our resource sector”.

... continued on page 4
The end of 2009 was an especially busy and fascinating time for the Griffith Asia Institute. The Australia China Futures Dialogues, a joint project with Peking University supported by the Queensland Government, hosted the Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue in Beijing in October and the inaugural Leader’s Lecture presented by the Honourable Bob Hawke A.C in December. We also hosted two successful international workshops on Sovereign Wealth Funds and Instability in Pakistan in November. Prominent visitors to the Institute included representatives of the Chinese Institutes for Contemporary International Relations and the new Australian Consul General to Guangzhou.

2010 promises to be an exciting year. Our Perspectives: Asia seminar series with the Queensland Art Gallery continues with the first seminar scheduled for 4 March. As well, planning for a number of research workshops on Sino-Australia co-operation, nuclear energy, and One Just World Forums is well underway.

We also welcome in 2010 a number of new research fellows who begin their appointments under the University’s new Asian Politics, Security and Development research initiative, in addition to the Postdoctoral Fellow supported by the Griffith Business School and our Future Fellow supported by the Australian Research Council. These new appointments will further consolidate GAI’s reputation as one of the premier Asian research centres in Australia and the region.

As I noted in my last editorial, Professor Andrew O’Neil will take over the reigns as Director of the Institute in 2010. We all wish Andrew well in his new and exciting role. I would like to thank to all those who generously contributed to GAI in 2009 and extend my best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2010.

Editorial

The end of 2009 was an especially busy and fascinating time for the Griffith Asia Institute. The Australia China Futures Dialogues, a joint project with Peking University supported by the Queensland Government, hosted the Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue in Beijing in October and the inaugural Leader’s Lecture presented by the Honourable Bob Hawke A.C in December. We also hosted two successful international workshops on Sovereign Wealth Funds and Instability in Pakistan in November. Prominent visitors to the Institute included representatives of the Chinese Institutes for Contemporary International Relations and the new Australian Consul General to Guangzhou.

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Griffith students win Prime Minister’s prize

By: Sophia Browne on: Tue 24 of Nov, 2009

Two Griffith University students have been awarded the first Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Awards. These scholarships, worth up to $41,500 for undergraduates, are awarded to the “best and brightest” university students from across Australia and Asia, giving winners the opportunity to undertake international study and research as well as work placements. Law and international relations student Sophia O’Brien, 22, and business/arts student Marybeth Harbison, 19, were selected as part of the 20 undergraduate recipients from Australia. An honours student, Sophia plans to be based in Beijing, China, for more than a year as a visiting researcher at Peking University.

“I’ll be studying Chinese foreign policy under a joint initiative by Peking University and the London School of Economics,” she said. Sophia also hopes to complete an internship with the International Crisis Group or the Rule of Law Initiative in China.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to gain more knowledge in my field.

“I hope to enliven these issues in a new context, and I think my time in China will be a sociable, character-building and generally fun experience.”

Now in her second year with the Griffith Honours College, Marybeth is planning to undertake a study abroad program at Shanghai University in China.

“I’ve planned to study in China since before starting my degree, and I have a strong interest in Chinese culture and language,” she said.

“This will be a once in a lifetime experience for me.”

The aims of the Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Awards aim to build the relationship between Australia and Asia through the development of internationally-aware, skilled future leaders, and the establishment of enduring education and professional linkages. Vice Chancellor Professor Ian O’Connor said Griffith was a leading University in the Asia Pacific region and the first in the country to offer Asian Studies to undergraduate students.

“Given the competitive nature and status of these scholarships, this is excellent recognition for our students,” Professor O’Connor said.
RHD Students

“Star Wars” redux?

Outer space is an important and cutting edge area of security studies and international relations. Space technology is essential to the process of globalisation and is ubiquitous in our everyday lives, facilitating processes as diverse as entertainment, travel, banking and agriculture. In the twenty-first century, technological developments and a rise in the number of space-faring actors are changing the contours of the security landscape. In our region the rising powers, China and India, have committed substantial resources into developing their space programs, modernising their military forces through the incorporation of space technology, as both countries acknowledge that space is fundamental to their strategic national interests. Space technology is an enabler for crucial security technologies such as Ballistic Missile Defence, and is fundamental to the operation of modern warfare. These developments pose serious challenges to international regimes such as the Outer Space Treaty and international institutions.

Forging Links with Indonesia

Professor Haig Patapan, Acting Director of Griffith Asia Institute (GAI), and Greta Nabbs-Keller, GAI PhD candidate, visited Jakarta in November 2009 to explore the potential for strengthening and developing collaborative links between GAI and Indonesian universities and think-tanks. The visit included meetings with academics from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia (FISIP UI), the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Indonesian Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies (Leserssi). The visit also provided an opportunity to participate in the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Habibie Centre, a think-tank established by former Indonesian President, J.B. Habibie focussed on the consolidation of Indonesia’s democratic reforms and development of its science and technology sector. The GAI delegates were warmly received by their Indonesian colleagues, who shared details of their research programs and views on governance and foreign policy issues in Indonesia more broadly. An important outcome of the visit was a greater awareness by Indonesian counterparts about Griffith’s expertise in the Asian Politics, Security and Development area and a commitment to incrementally develop collaboration and exchange around areas of mutual interest.

Greta also met with the Indonesian Minister for the Environment in January 2010 when she visited Griffith University.

These developments have also created new security problems and challenged the technological leadership of the United States. The research of GAI PhD candidate, Jo Gilbert, seeks to understand the changing security implications of outer space, and the impact this has had on US political decision-making with a particular focus on the possibility of weaponising outer space.

Strong rhetoric from the US defence department, increased US unilateralism, the role of individuals within the administration and Congress, the abrogation of the ABM treaty, and the contentious release of a new National Space Policy in 2006 were among the factors that confirmed to some that the US intent was to control space, and exclude some states from participating in what has been enshrined in international law as res communaris. Yet, despite the rhetoric, no consistent and dedicated strategy to weaponise space was instigated.

Why? In her thesis Jo will examine the disconnect between rhetoric and policy on space security issues during the George W. Bush administration, examining the factors that both promote and restrain the development of space weapons on the policy-making agenda. Thanks to support from the Griffith Asia Institute, the Asian Security Initiative (ASI) and the School of International Business and Asian Studies (IBAS), she was recently able to spend over a month in Washington DC where she was hosted by the Space Policy Institute (SPI) at George Washington University (GWU).

The visit allowed Jo to research her thesis, participate in the SPI masters courses on Space Security and Space Policy, attend conferences and meetings, research at the Library of Congress, and to conduct numerous interviews for her research. She was also able to attend several conferences and listen to experts in space security discuss the US perspective on China’s gains in space technology, as well as other pressing space security concerns.

Jo explains that this field trip was vitally important for her research, “Australia has little expertise in the field of space politics, so this trip has allowed me to immerse myself in the US space community and develop contacts with experts in the field of space security. I would particularly like to thank Professor John Logsdon of the Space Policy Institute, and the director, Dr Scott Pace, for their kindness in hosting me at SPI. Also, the trip wouldn’t have been possible without the support that I received from the Griffith Asia Institute, the Asian Security Initiative and IBAS. I am extremely grateful to have had this opportunity.”

Jo Gilbert, at the National Mall, Washington DC
Imported parts and components constitute two thirds of the value produced in China’s processing sector and is reflected in China running a current account deficit with the rest of Asia.”

Mr Hawke went on to discuss the implications of China’s rise on the United States. He emphasised that “nothing is more vital to optimise our chances for a peaceful, prosperous and environmentally sustainable world than a sound relationship between the US and China.”

Mr Hawke concluded by addressing the implications of China’s growth for the world as a whole. In addition to economic implications, Mr Hawke highlighted 3 aspects:

- The Chinese leadership’s decision to assume a role in global affairs in tune with its greatly enhanced economic status.
- China’s pursuit of resource security has resulted in a considerable expansion of Chinese influence, particularly in Africa.
- China will be a critically important player in any successful attempt to deal with the pressing challenge of climate change.

Mr Hawke stated, “I make no apology for the very positive approach I bring to my assessment of China and the implications of its rapid economic development for us and the rest of the world. I do this because I believe it and also because of my reaction against what is often the negative and prejudiced analysis of China we see in so much of our and the US media. Our two countries are unique in the economic synergies open to us and the lack of historical baggage we bring to the table. Australia and China, Australians and Chinese, have so much to learn from each other. There are so many ways we can help one another and, together, play our part as nations, and as peoples, in helping to shape a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world.”

A full transcript of this speech, podcast and video links can be found at: http://www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute/partnerships-collaboration/australia-china-futures-dialogues/annual-leaders-lecture

The Lecture is a part of the Australia – China Futures Dialogues, an initiative of Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University in collaboration with Peking University and supported by the Queensland Government. These lectures aim to encourage broad public discussion on key issues affecting our region.

Mr Hawke greets Mr Zheng Zhanghua, Director, Political Section, Chinese Embassy in Australia

The importance of cultural exchanges and the people-to-people factor in the future of the Australia-China relationship which has three significant components was also emphasised.

These are:

- 600,000 people of Chinese descent now call Australia home;
- Education – some 125,000 Chinese students study in Australia (approximately 25% of all foreign students in Australia); and
- Tourism.

Queensland’s role in the Australia-China relationship is prominent according to Mr Hawke. This is due to its trade relationship, services exports and state and municipal links.

Secondly, Mr Hawke pointed out that “China’s dramatic rise has also been undoubtedly good for the Asia Pacific region.

### Research

Congratulations to the following GAI members for their successful 2010 Griffith University/Griffith Business School Research Grants:

Higgs, H with Worthington, A for their project ‘Consumer and regulatory implications of pricing cycles in Australian retail petrol markets’

Hall, C. ‘India Rising: Indian Elite Perceptions of Foreign Policy in an Emergent Great Power’.

Congratulations also to GAI researchers Professors Jason Sharman and Ross Guest, recognised in the inaugural Pro Vice Chancellor’s (Business) Research Excellence Awards. Griffith Business School Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Michael Powell said the awards reflected the sustained excellent research performance of the School. “Their outstanding performance reflects positively on the Griffith Business School as well as the University and contributes towards achievement of our research objectives,” Professor Powell said.
Three Griffith PhD students were among 30 up and comers from around the world who visited Beijing for the Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue last month. Ross Ashcroft (Griffith Law School), Nunik Kusumawardani (Centre for Environment and Population Health) and Delia Lin (Griffith Asia Institute) attended the four-day event which was organised by the Griffith Asia Institute.

With ten students from China, ten from other Asian countries and ten from Australia, the students were identified as ‘emerging leaders’ in their academic fields. With the topic ‘creating a model of an Asian Knowledge Bank’, they were asked to focus on how, as a region, we might be able to build a knowledge bank which would allow the free flow of information and bring economic and social benefits to the community.

“I learnt a lot about understanding the concept of knowledge bank from multi discipline perspectives,” Nunik said.

“We had small group discussions that were very lively, scientifically rich, and full of debates and arguments. It creates connections between different disciplines and countries in developing a knowledge bank in the future for the well being of the Asia Pacific region,” she said. The Dialogue diverges from traditional conference formats, employing a Participatory Future Scenario-Building Method. The facilitator, Associate Professor Anne Cullen from Bond University gave participants the opportunity to work in small and large groups to address potential problems and issues relating to creating a bank. The style of the Dialogue encouraged brainstorming sessions and debate.

Students discussed the future of sharing knowledge across the region, coming up with various models, including Knowledge Space (K-Space): People Building Knowledge Together, a Self Adapting Knowledge Tree model and a charter. The student’s discussions will be presented in an outcomes paper available at: http://www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute/partnerships-collaboration/australia-china-futures-dialogues/emerging-leaders-dialogue.

The Emerging Leaders is one of three annual parts of the Australia-China Futures Dialogues, a Griffith Asia Institute initiative with Peking University and supported by the Queensland Government. The first dialogue of the Australia-China Futures Dialogues program was held in March with leading scholars from around the world and discussed a wide range of issues around innovation and cooperation in building relationships within the Asian community. The topic of the knowledge bank emerged from the March discussion and was chosen because it connects innovation and cooperation. A subsidiary question was: What scaffolding is required to share knowledge and to build the requisite knowledge infrastructure of the 21st century in our region?

Mr Iain Watt, Minister Counsel (Education), Australian Embassy, opens the Emerging Leader’s Dialogue

Publications


McCarthy, S, “From Coup d’état to ‘Disciplined Democracy”: The Burmese Regime’s Claims to Legitimacy,” Regional Outlook Paper, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, No. 23, 2010

Selth, A., “Burma and North Korea: Conventional Allies or Nuclear Partners?” Regional Outlook No.22, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, 2009,


Sharman, J.C., “The Bark is the Bite: International Organizations and Blacklisting,” Review of International Political Economy 16 (December 2009), 573–596

Workshops

Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society (STS) Network consolidates with inaugural conference in Brisbane

By Richard Hindmarsh

Late November 2009 saw the inaugural conference of the new Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society (STS) Network. Called Our Lands, Our Waters, Our Peoples, the conference, supported by the Griffith Asia Institute, effectively consolidated the new network in the Asia-Pacific (East Asia, Southeast Asia & Australasia near the Pacific Ocean plus Oceania states). Under the new Convenor, Associate Professor Richard Hindmarsh (Griffith School of Environment and Centre for Governance and Public Policy) for 2011–2012, the next two years' meetings are being held in Tokyo and China (at Northeastern University).

STS scholarship encompasses the social and humanities study of scientific knowledge; the sociology of science and scientific practice in the laboratory; the impacts of science and technology on society and the environment; the role of science in society, science and ethics; science, risk and decision-making; studies of science policy, and science communication (including public engagement and science in the news media). Increasingly, attention is being paid to the relationship between science and the environment, and the use of scientific advice and evidence in decision-making and regulation, and to governance, citizenship and public policy. STS practitioners regularly engage scientists, doctors, decision-makers, engineers and the wider community on matters of policy, politics, equity, social change, national development and environmental sustainability. STS has been practiced internationally for over forty years and is growing field of scholarship.

Queensland-based workshop on Pakistan’s chronic instability

The first major Queensland-based workshop on Pakistan’s chronic instability was hosted by the Griffith Asia Institute in November.

Pakistan is an important part of the international system and its security and stability affects all including Australia which is now deeply engaged in Afghanistan. Ironically, not much attention has been accorded to studying Pakistan in Australia and South Asia in general.

Leading government and academic speakers from Pakistan, India and Australia attended the workshop at the Stamford Plaza on November 26 and 27 in which scholars from Griffith University actively participated.

Workshop coordinator Dr Ashutosh Misra from the Griffith Asia Institute and the Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security said participants discussed the drivers of Pakistan’s chronic instability and ways to address its security and stability.

“Pakistan has the second largest Muslim population in the world and possesses nuclear weapons,” Dr Misra explained.

“It’s an ally of the US in the war on terror, but political instability continues to plague the country.

One hundred and thirty scholars from eight countries arrived at South Bank for critical discussions about regional S&T developments and to encourage stronger STS networking and collaborations in relation to the conference themes of environment, regional culture, indigenous S&T, techno-life sciences, citizenship and governance. The program featured six keynotes from Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan Japan and Austria, and five special panels on mediating debates on emerging technologies (especially biotech and nanotech); regional perspectives on technoscience engagement and citizenship; sustainability science and climate change, indigenous-led genomics, and the biopolitics of regenerative medicine (engineered tissues and stem cells), as well as 90 papers.

Interestingly, the major theme to emerge at the conference was governance, citizenship, and public policy, which underpinned to a large degree the three other key themes, with environment the second most popular theme and then techno—sciences, with a healthy focus on indigenous as well. The latter focus was something that people really noticed. It was a valuable ‘point of difference’ from the other more formal US and European organisations and events. Indeed, at the conference end, Maori STS scholars stated firmly that this conference was the first one organised by non–indigenous organisers that they had really enjoyed and that they were keen to play a key role in the Network’s development. Another point of difference that the participants enjoyed was the time and spaces for open discussion. An essential part of setting up the conference’s success was gaining good sponsorship of which the Asia Institute was a valued one. We thank all our sponsors for their great support.

Finally, if you’re interested in looking more at what we offer please explore the conference website at: http://www.griffith.edu.au/apsts2009. Similarly, if you’ve like to join this informal network with no fees attached, see ‘About Us’ at the website and email christine.jenca@esr.cri.nz
Sovereign Wealth Funds of Non–OECD countries

The Griffith Asia Institute hosted an international workshop in November on Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) convened by Professor Xu Yi-Chong. The emergence of dedicated government investment vehicles from a range of non–OECD countries, whether oil-exporting, such as United Arab Emirate (UAE), Kuwait or Russia, and export-oriented, such as Singapore and China, has raised fear and alarm in OECD countries. These SWFs are often regarded as Trojan horses for these non–democratic countries to invade Western financial systems, undermine their economies and threaten their sovereignty.

Those who are wary about SWFs have advanced four reasons for concern: (a) the number of countries with SWFs is increasing; (b) the amount of capital at their disposal is rising; (c) SWFs are government investment vehicles and could be used to further strategic rather than commercial interests; and (d) investment decision making in the new SWF holding countries is opaque. The OECD countries demand more transparency from non–OECD SWF holding countries and more regulation from multilateral institutions, such as the IMF and OECD. SWF holding countries, meanwhile, have argued that SWFs are neither new nor the only funds controlled by governments invested in international financial markets. They should be treated no differently from other funds, such as pension funds, which are overwhelmingly in the hands of OECD countries, or private equities, which are much larger in size, or hedge funds which can do more harm to economies, but are not regulated. This workshop examined the rise and expansion of SWFs, especially those from non–OECD countries, and their implication to global politics.

At the centre of the debate is the ownership of SWFs – whether the emergence of SWFs represents “a major global economic and financial rebalancing of power” as stated by the director of OECD Development Centre. Does the emergence of SWFs and the debates around them symbolise a reshaping of the world’s economy and finance or are they no more than a flash in the pan, especially as the economies of SWF holding countries are dependent on OECD countries and vulnerable to the fluctuation of world markets. This debate raises some broad questions: (1) Are the emerging SWF holding countries challenging the leadership role of OECD countries in global economy? (2) Does the world need new institutional arrangements to deal with SWFs? (3) If so, who should be in the driver’s seat in creating a new global regime?

Before we can understand and assess these issues among the hype and take on the serious questions about global politics, we need some empirical data from the perspectives of SWF–holding countries. What are sovereign wealth funds? What do they do? What do they intend to achieve? How is domestic politics influencing the shape SWFs and their decisions? What is the reaction from other countries to their SWFs? How do these non–OECD SWF holding countries deal with the reactions?

The workshop looked at a comparative study of SWFs from the seven largest SWF holding countries and discussed these two levels of questions from the point of view of SWF holding countries, especially those non–OECD countries:

- China and Singapore – Asian exporters
- UAE and Kuwait – OPEC
- Russia – new oil–exporter
- Norway and Australia – Norway was selected because it is not only one of the largest SWF holding countries, but is often used as an example of transparency. Australia is a relatively new SWF holding country and its future is uncertain because of its design.

The aim of the workshop and discussion is to publish a book by participants. The publication will look at the reactions and responses from the US and from EU/OECD, and the current multilateral rules and their changes. It will also include an introduction on the rise and expansion of SWFs in non–OECD countries, the key issues related to global politics, and how the rise and expansion of SWFs and their operation are shaping the international politics.

Country–specific contributions will focus on several key points about SWFs including:

1. Origin – some have been around for some time while others were recently created; the circumstance in which they were created shaped their objectives and often their structure as well.
2. Objective – saving for a rainy day has always been a human practice; are there any other objectives of non–OECD SWF holding countries? The objectives of SWFs will affect the way they operate.
3. Portfolio – how does each country handle their SWFs; where do they invest; how are decisions about their investment made?
4. Domestic political debates over SWFs – what are the domestic responses to the government’s decision to create SWFs, and to their investment decisions? The public debate tends to shape the domestic regulation on SWFs, their operation and their investment overseas.
5. External responses – what are the main external responses to SWFs and their investment in each case. Some investments have caused more external responses than others. Is the nature of the investment or the way the investment is made?
6. Responses to external reactions – some countries have chosen to deal with the external pressure by pursuing unilateral actions (strengthening the domestic regulation and transparency), while others prefer to take bilateral or multilateral approaches in dealing with the external reactions.

Each of the country studies will discuss these 6 questions and provide detailed empirical case on the rise and expansion of the SWFs, their operation and the politics involved. Through the discussion on these questions, we hope to understand the changing and changed international power relations. Other contributions will look at both EU/OECD and non–OECD reactions to SWFs. The publication will conclude looking at SWFs from a global point of view – the current rules regulating the various investment funds; the need for new rules; the players involved in making rules; relationship among the players; and the implications to global politics.
Griffith students shine in State International Education awards

By Carlene Duffy

Griffith University was recently acknowledged for its commitment to International education when we secured 2 wins at this year’s (2009) Queensland Education and Training International (QETI) Awards for Excellence. The awards were held 10 September at the Parliament House, Brisbane and the acclamations follow outstanding success at last year’s awards ceremony at which Griffith took home 7 of the 12 honours.

Recently graduated Master of International Business (MIB) student, Mr Camilo Santiago Costa Leite (pictured above), won the award for International Student of the Year by which he was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the student community and to the international education industry.

On his arrival from Brazil, in February 2008, Camilo identified a need to bridge the gap between local and international students in the wider Brisbane area and has worked enthusiastically to achieve this by creating a number of culturally inclusive events that bring together students of both Australian and international origin.

Much of Camilo’s work was facilitated by his MIB internship, completed with Brisbane Marketing’s International Business Development Unit. Here, Camilo created the Study Brisbane International Student Ambassador program, recruiting international students to act as online volunteers to assist new international students for study in Brisbane. Further details can be found at www.studybrisbane.com.au.

Within his role at Brisbane Marketing, Camilo assembled a group of volunteers to appear on Australian television program “Getaway”, to profile Brisbane and Queensland as a tourist destination. He was also invited to speak at the Australian Education International’s (AEI) ESOS National Code Good Practice Workshop earlier this year to speak about his Student Ambassador project.

So impressive was Camilo’s work at Brisbane Marketing that Ken Bennett, Head, Work Integrated Learning (WIL), Griffith Business School nominated Camilo for the QETI award with recommendation from Camilo’s industry supervisor, Gordan Scott.

Camilo was thrilled to win the award. “The QETI award for International Student of the Year means not only the recognition of my work as an international student but the recognition of the importance of international students, to Australia and the world,” he said.

The second award went to Griffith graduate, Ms Phi Dung Tran Dang, for International Alumnus of the Year. Phi is recognised as one of Asia’s emerging leaders in Public Health and she was commended for her work on raising awareness and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam.

HIV/AIDS is a pressing public health concern in Vietnam and on graduating from Griffith University with a Master of Public Health in 2006, Phi returned to Vietnam to work as a Field Based Project Officer on Save the Children’s’ HIV/AIDS prevention program.

She has been highly successful in her efforts and has produced some key population health outcomes, including a significant reduction in HIV infection rates among young males in Vietnam.

Phi is now regarded as one of the most valuable young graduates to be working in the Vietnamese public health sector and is also widely recognised by her colleagues, by academic experts in the field, her peers, the community via local media, and other global network organisations. She was even chosen to attend this year’s Asia 50 Summit in Shanghai, China.

Phi, unaffected by her success, was delighted to win the QETI award. She said “I am thrilled and honoured to have been named the 2009 QETI International Alumnus of the Year. “I am privileged to have had the opportunity to study in Queensland, and I hope to be a positive example for other Queensland university students, especially international students,” she said.

Reminder! APAIE Conference and Exhibition

Registration deadline approaching

The Asia Pacific Association for International Education 2010 Conference and Exhibition will be held on 14-16 April 2010 at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. APAIE is an organisation for international educators committed to developing co-operation between universities to promote all aspects of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.

Hosted by Griffith University, this event is expected to attract over 600 delegates from more than 50 countries, including Presidents and Vice Presidents from many of Asia-Pacific’s leading universities and would like to welcome you to attend.

Attendees are not only from the Asia-Pacific region, but other regions of the world including Europe and the Americas.

The theme this year, Educating for Extremes: educating for global challenges in a rapidly changing world, will examine best practice in international education today and include discussions on how global events will affect how we educate our students.

The first day of the Conference will involve dialogues from the Asia Pacific on best practice in international education.

Day two will address how the world is changing and how extreme events are affecting our world.

The Conference will conclude with an interactive summit on day three which will develop specific strategies under each theme for how to educate our students to meet the challenges facing them in the years ahead.

Visit the website, register on-line and mark your diary for 14-16 April 2010! URL: www.apaie.org

Diary dates

Refer to the Griffith Asia Institute website at www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute/ for updates on these and other events.